

RAY BROOKS' SHOP TALK

THINGS ABOUT TORRANCE YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW (AND WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?)

That the town is experiencing growing pains again in the oil field to the south—painful both to the land owners who are in a continual state of jitters and to all the outsiders who have no property but wish they had.

That the entrance to the city via Western Ave. is still as dumpy & forlorn as ever, absolutely nothing having been done to beautify it, the council pleading "we're still waiting for a committee report."

That Ed Thompson, Chevrolet dealer, has purchased a building on Narbonne Ave. in Los Angeles, and opens Saturday with a complete Chevrolet Sales & Service and Used Car branch. Old time Chevrolet seller Walter Spears, from Gardena, is in charge.

That a very worthy young T.H.S. graduate of a few weeks ago, Leonard Harris, is ambitiously looking for any kind of a job until next September when he goes to Loyola. Shop Talk will be glad to act as "Jobs Wanted," forward to Leonard any offers Herald readers might have.

That applications for F.H.A. Loans are pouring into the local Bank of America, according to Money Bags Dean Sears, who can't find time to add up the profits in the Sartori Counting House he is so busy talking to prospective home builders.

That the Civic Center Market, Post & Cravens, is booming right ahead with its amiable Scotch Manager Bell, who envisions great things for the market as soon as he can get fixtures, stock, etc., in shape.

That the Merchants' association meeting of last night was quite a success with President Harold Guttenfelder, who proclaimed sadly he was no speaker, actually doing a nice job of M.C'ing.

That Jack Piper gets his handsome face into the Herald this week in the J. C. Penney Co. ad as the work clothes buyer who personally explains why Penney's are having a super-extra sale on work (who said work?) clothes.

That Alden Smith, of Howard's Jewelers, gets embroiled with Dan Cupid this week and offers to all love sick swains who buy engagement or wedding rings their Money Back If The Girl Says No!

That Tom Loyalty, prop. of the Torrancia Poultry & Feed Mkt. is all ready for spring with a most complete line of garden seeds, fertilizers, etc. Tom, you know, opened two weeks ago a branch in Lomita on the 101 Highway. Calls it the 101 Cash & Carry Feed Store, with his nephew Maurice Foreman in charge.

That Jack Christiansen, son of the owner of Christy's Cafe, plans to leave soon for Alaska where he will fill a three year contract with an oil company before returning to warmer climes.

That Mrs. Bertha Isbell, prop. of the Spotless Cleaners, has taken over the NITTY Cleaning & Dyeing agency formerly held by Mrs. Fanny King, who moved out several weeks ago.

That Johnny Parker, extra-super deluxe pork chop & round steak-cutter-upper-at-the-A. & P. is quite a basketball player, has a team and is now sinking baskets in the round robin basketball league recently formed here in Torrancia.

State Picnics

IOWA . . . All former or visiting Hawkeyes from Iowa are invited to attend the annual picnic reunion Saturday, Feb. 26, in Lincoln Park, Los Angeles. If it rains on that date or just before, the gathering will be held one week later. There will be a program following the basket dinner hour at noon.

CODY, WYO. . . All former or visiting residents of that city are urged to attend the reunion at Bisby Park, Long Beach, Sunday, Feb. 27.

MONTANA . . . Arrangements have been completed for the annual Montana picnic-reunion Tuesday, Feb. 22, in Sycamore Grove Park, Los Angeles. In event of rain on that day, the picnic will be postponed until March 13 at the same place.

TORRANCE HERALD

TWENTY-FOURTH YEAR

TORRANCE, CALIF., FEB. 17, 1938

SECTION B

STUDENT HOPS EVERY FRIDAY IN AUD

'Star Nomads' Pause Here On Endless Trek

It's nice work if you can get it and, thanks to a farm near Springfield, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Vales and the four little Vales known collectively as "America's Star Nomads," are getting it. They were in Torrancia Monday and Tuesday en route to nowhere in particular and minus any kind of schedule.

The Vales, aboard their 28-foot trailer—and you should see that completely equipped traveling home—have been on the road since their marriage in 1929. They have traveled 117,000 miles, visiting in every state in the union except Rhode Island.

Monday night when they halted just outside the city limits they gave daughter Betty Lou a gala birthday party in observance of her third natal day. Betty and William Franklin, who is nearly two, were born in the Nomads' trailer. The other healthy youngsters, are Dixie Jean, seven, and Richard Francis, five.

Just Having Good Time The Vales' trailer is equipped with all kinds of gadgets which really work. There are electrical appliances such as a wash machine, sewing machine, radio and a complete lighting system. There is hot and cold running water, a gasoline range and radiant stove, a shower, an intricate double-decker bed for the youngsters and a full-sized bed for Mr. and Mrs. Vale.

The small farm 'n' Missouri is financing the Nomads' endless journey to interesting places in the U. S. Vale says he is not endorsing anything on selling anything "we are just having a good time and the youngsters are learning more about geography and history than they ever would in school."

Mother Vale conducts regular school sessions. Father Vale pilots the car and the whole family (including a big black cat) go wherever their fancy leads them.

Woman Swallows 23 Spikes CRANBROOK, B. C. (U.P.)—When Dr. W. F. Green operated on an Indian woman here he removed 23 six-inch spikes from her stomach. She could not explain how she had swallowed the spikes.

Object is to Keep Youngsters in City

First of a series of regular Friday night student dances will be held at the Civic Auditorium tomorrow night under the auspices of the Coordinating Council and with Ray Dietrick's 11-piece band supplying the swing music. The student hops are being revived after several weeks and the Council cordially invites all young people to attend. The prices are 20 cents per student or 35 cents for a couple.

Lightning Ball Causes Damage During Storm

Described as a ball of fire, lightning struck the Hughes Mitchell plant on South Normandie avenue last Friday morning about 8:30 o'clock during a torrential downpour. The electrical ball, blinding and smoking and as "large as a bushel basket," then bounced into the air and came down on a corrugated iron roof of a building at the plant.

According to witnesses, the roof "seemed to explode" and a portion of it sailed thru the air to strike a Southern California Edison high tension line, shorting its three phases. The supporting pole broke, and, in falling to the ground crashed across the Pacific trolley lines.

Damage to the power systems was quickly repaired by Edison and Pacific Electric workmen. "Ball" lightning is considered very unusual in this section of the Southland.

Wants Charity Itemized On Co. Tax Bill

A plan of Supervisor Leland M. Ford to render a separate bill to each taxpayer for the amount of his taxes to be allocated to charity by Los Angeles County this week suffered a temporary defeat by a vote of 3 to 2 in the board of supervisors.

It was ordered referred to the county counsel's office for an opinion as to its legality and to the department of budget and research for information as to its cost. Supervisor Roger Jessup voted with Ford for the proposal, with Herbert Legg, John Anson Ford and Gordon McDonough voted against it.

The charity item in the tax budget has increased from 33 cents on the \$100 valuation in 1930-31 to 73 cents in the present budget, a gain of 120 percent.

Defends Himself



Earl Kynette, deposed chief of the Los Angeles vice squad, before making his recent radio broadcast in which he defended his position, attacked Dist. Atty. Byron Fitts but withheld promised "sensational disclosures" on advice of counsel.

Accident Victim Seeks Damages

Seriously injured when she was struck by an automobile while crossing the Carson street-Cravens avenue and Cabrillo boulevard intersection in Torrancia last February, Martha Sparlich today is seeking damages totaling \$5,500 in a complaint on file in Los Angeles county superior court.

Arland Palmer is named defendant in the complaint, as driver of the car which asserted ran into the plaintiff, knocked her to the pavement and allegedly caused injuries to her spine and head.

Los Angeles County was Larger than State of Massachusetts When Formed 88 Years Ago

Only a very few of the oldest of Los Angeles old-timers know that Olvera street, the picturesque, block-long thoroughfare north of the Old Plaza was named after Agustin Olvera who laid out and organized Los Angeles county 88 years ago this week.

On Feb. 18, 1850, soon after the close of the Mexican War, and the beginning of the American Occupation a special act of the state legislature created Los Angeles county as one of California's original 27 counties.

Living here at the time was Olvera who had come to the pueblo from Mexico 15 years before. As he had some experience as petit court judge, it fell his job to carry out the legislative order. He at once organized a "court of sessions," and on May 31, 1850, put the first legal machinery of the county into operation.

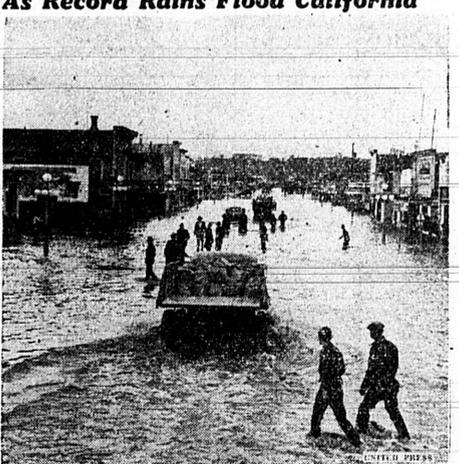
After a month's work the court completed what it had set out to do. During the first week's session, Olvera defined the expansive domain of Los Angeles county, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties and a part of Ventura county, an area much larger than the state of Massachusetts.

During the Mexican regime and before Olvera's provisional order, this vast territory had been governed by the Los Angeles pueblo ayuntamiento or city council. Its chief worries at the time were to keep watch on marauding Indians, to kill off the excessive wild horses in all parts of the territory and to keep the coyotes from preying upon calves and sheep.

Tiny Babe Makes Excellent Progress

A mite of humanity weighing two and one-half pounds is making splendid progress at a Los Angeles hospital to the great delight of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Wright, Jr., of 1420 Beech street. The baby, named Judith Grace, was born Feb. 8 and is being cared for in an incubator.

As Record Rains Flood California



Flood waters in the wake of gales and storms along the Pacific Slope struck with some of their greatest fury in Watsonville, Cal., where thousands of homes were inundated and the business section, shown above, was virtually paralyzed.

Nature Photographer Speaks at Narbonne

An educational and entertaining assembly was held in the Narbonne high school auditorium last Thursday when Eben Fine, photographer and lecturer, gave a travelogue, "Rambles Through the Rockies," which he illustrated with his own slides in natural color. They included views of beauty spots of Colorado such as Rocky Mountain National Park, and the glacier region of Boulder county.

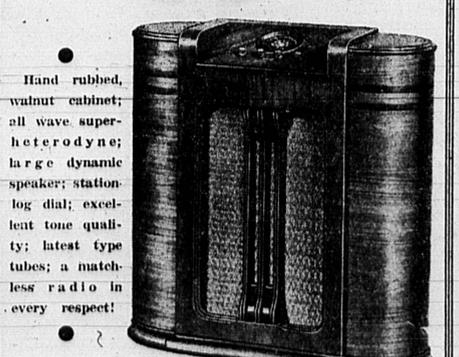
Many wonder spots in the United States, Hawaii and Alaska, taking pictures. During the winter Fine is living in Long Beach and giving free travelogues to the neighboring schools.

Oil Rig Fire Damage Slight

A fire on the platform of one of the Patton-Neill rigs at 2232 Sepulveda Monday afternoon was quickly extinguished by the Torrancia fire department. The blaze started from welding equipment. Damage was slight.

The Crusader . . .

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Advertisement for Howard's Jewelers featuring 'Ring-Lok' engagement and wedding rings. The ad includes the text: 'THIS FELLOW AND WE Have Entered Into a Conspiracy to Bring About THIS - SO THAT WITH a Careful and Well Planned Application of Strategy THIS Will Happen To all Good Young People who Want to be Married! ON ALL ENGAGEMENT and WEDDING RINGS YOUR MONEY BACK IF THE GIRL SAYS NO! EASIEST BUDGET TERMS HOWARD'S JEWELERS TORRANCE 1503 CABRILLO TELEPHONE 411'